



HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

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Published in the interest of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin community

Closed On Thursdays

Directorate of Resource Management will be closed for training purposes during Thursday afternoons, starting at 1 p.m. Any questions or concerns, contact Raquel Cisneros at 380-2600.

Vietnam Veterans Salute

The National Training Center and Fort Irwin invites all military veterans who served during the Vietnam War Era (1955-1975) to its 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony on March 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Highlights include Welcome Ceremony with lapel pins presentation, lunch with Soldiers, group photograph, veterans' benefits information table and military vehicle display. Family members of Vietnam veterans are encouraged to attend. RSVP by March 15 at http://www.irwin.army.mil/cmd_staff/USAG/Documents/Vietnam.pdf or contact Mark Laury, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security at 380-6372 or email him at mark.laury@us.army.mil

Grants, Academic Scholarships

Welfare grants are provided to requesting organizations based on merit and need. During the past two years, Military and Civilian Spouses Club has awarded more than \$42,500 to 78 different grant requests. Apply now if you are a member of an organization that directly or indirectly supports our local community and financial aid could help improve services or programming. Applications are available online at www.mcscftirwin.org. Applications for welfare grants must be postmarked no later than Feb. 23 or hand-delivered by Feb. 25. Last year, MCSC awarded academic scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 to dependents of Soldiers and federal employees. Applications for MCSC academic scholarships are available online at www.mcscftirwin.org. The web site describes the eligibility requirements and application procedures in detail. Applications for academic scholarships must be postmarked by March 18 or hand-delivered no later than March 21. For more information, contact Christy Quinter at (484) 332-3866.



CAROLINE KEYSER

Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, outgoing commander of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, second from right, passes the post colors to Gen. James Thurman, commander of U.S. Army Forces Command, during change of command ceremony at the main post helipad, Feb. 7. Incoming commander, Brig. Gen. Terry Ferrell, second from left, and NTC/Fort Irwin Command Sgt. Maj. Nathan Buckner, right, look on. See more photos on pages 10 and 11.

Community welcomes new commanding general

Brig. Gen. Terry Ferrell takes command

BY CHARLES MELTON

Warrior Staff Writer

A new leader emerged to write the next chapter of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin on Monday afternoon as Brig. Gen. Terry Ferrell assumed command of the installation.

Brig. Gen. Ferrell replaced outgoing National Training Center and Fort Irwin com-

manding general Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams during a change of command ceremony led by U.S. Army Forces Command commander Gen. James D. Thurman.

"Gen. Ferrell is a proven leader of immense capability and worthy of the increased responsibility he is receiving today," Gen. Thurman said. "He brings a wealth of experience in both collective training and combat leadership."

For the past 27 years, Brig. Gen. Ferrell has served in some of the most challenging assignments in the Army, he said.

"Those same jobs and his unique experiences make him especially qualified to lead Fort Irwin in time when we remain in a protracted conflict and an uncertain international security environment," Gen. Thurman said.

See Ferrell, pages 10-11

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ROTATIONAL SOLDIER USE OF POST FACILITIES

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278

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Source: Directorate of Human Resources
National Training Center and Fort Irwin



Defender 6 Sends

Net Zero is 100 percent benefit



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

The Army has a bold vision for managing natural resources on its installations: they will become net zero. That is, as we go about the complex business of living, working and training on installations, our use and production of resources will balance out, so that in the end, we do not over-consume or waste. The most exciting part of the Army Net Zero vision is this: we all have a part to play in achieving it.

When the concept of net zero was first applied to installations, it was in terms of energy. A task force that grew out of a 2008 joint initiative of the Departments of Defense and Energy studied the possibility of net zero energy installations, or installations that produce as much energy on site as they use over the course of a year. Army Net Zero goes beyond energy, though, to also include water and waste.

Army Net Zero's holistic approach increases our ability to achieve the larger goal of sustainable installations. With an eye to all three, energy, water and waste, we are more likely to move beyond isolated projects, which carry the risk of succeeding in one area at the expense of another, to an integrated plan that balances benefits and costs across our operations.

Installations reach net zero through five interrelated steps: reduction, repurposing, recycling and composting, energy recovery, and disposal. To achieve net zero energy, garrisons start with aggressive conservation efforts, to reduce the amount of energy being used in

the first place. Then they repurpose energy, or find secondary uses for building exhausts, boiler stack exhausts and other thermal energy streams, and recover heat from the electricity generation process. Once they have reduced their load through conservation and efficiency measures, they can meet their remaining requirements through renewable or alternative energy projects.

A net zero water installation limits the consumption of fresh water and returns water back to the same watershed, so as not to deplete the groundwater and surface water resources of that region in quantity or quality. Similar to the process with energy, installations aiming for net zero water begin with rigorous conservation efforts. Then they repurpose the water used in showers, sinks, washing machines and cooling towers, capture rainwater for on-site use, and treat wastewater for recharging into groundwater aquifers. They achieve net zero water by capturing, repurposing, and recharging an amount equal to what they consume.

A net zero installation reduces, reuses and recovers waste streams, converting them to resource values with zero landfill. In other words, a net zero waste installation aims to make disposal an unnecessary step. Garrisons start by reducing the initial amount of waste, and then find ways to repurpose waste with minimal processing. For example, they might crush construction rubble to use on trails. When they cannot reuse waste, they recycle or compost as much as they can or convert it to energy. They achieve net zero waste when they have nothing left to send to the landfill.

During my site visits over the past year, I have seen how our garrisons have taken steps — great strides in some cases — to manage our resources more efficiently. Look at the water projects at Forts Huachuca, Bliss and Belvoir; the waste management projects at Forts Bragg and Jackson and Joint Base Lewis-McChord; and the energy projects at Forts Drum, Wainwright, Carson and Campbell, to name just a few. So I know there will be tremendous interest in an opportunity that the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment is launching this month. The ASA (IE&E) is asking garrisons to nominate themselves to become Net Zero Energy, Net Zero Water or Net Zero Waste installations, or all three, by

2020. Five will be selected in each category, with one to become all three. These installations will receive long-term, in-depth training and support and become showcases for the strategies, technologies and best practices of sustainable resource management.

I encourage every garrison to take on this challenge. It will require commitment and a lot of hard work. Not only do we have to learn about energy, water and waste management best practices and technologies, but we also have to learn the business practices that support them. We have to build partnerships with those in the private sector and in non-government organizations who will join us in investing in the net zero vision. However, this is a prime opportunity to learn lessons we will be required to know in the future.

Everyone, every Soldier, Civilian and Family member, has a role to play in managing our resources. Maybe it seems like a smaller role — turning out the lights, adjusting the thermostat, or separating out recyclables at home. Maybe it is a more direct role, such as running an installation waste management program or writing enhanced use leases or energy savings performance contracts. Regardless, every effort adds up, and what it adds up to is important — our future.

Energy efficiency and security is a critical issue for the Army. The Army depends on a reliable, safe, cost-effective supply of energy to accomplish its mission, as well as provide a good quality of life for Soldiers, Civilians and Families on installations worldwide. To the extent that the supply and distribution of energy lay outside the Army's control, the ability to accomplish our mission is open to risk. The same can be said of water, or practically any of our resources. If the Army is to accomplish its mission in the future, if we want to be good neighbors to those outside our gates and to leave a healthy world for our children and grandchildren, then we have to start operating sustainably today. It is the right thing to do.

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch
Installation Management Command
Commanding General
(Defender 6)

Lt. Gen. Lynch is also the ACSIM (Assistant Chief Staff for Installation Management)

Bob's Corner

Let's all celebrate Valentine's Day

BY BOB LUCAS
Commentator

The modern St. Valentine's Day celebrations are derived from both ancient Christian and Roman tradition.

The holiday originated from an ancient Roman festival, a fer-

tility celebration that used to be observed annually on February 15. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius turned the holiday into a Christian feast day and set its observance a day earlier, on February 14. He proclaimed February 14 to be the feast day in honor of Saint Valentine, a Roman martyr who lived in the 3rd century.

See Valentine's, page 3

WHO WE ARE

Brig. Gen. Terry Farrell
Commanding General

Command Sgt. Maj. Nathan Buckner
Post CSM

Col. Jim Chevallier
Garrison Commander

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Harvey
Garrison CSM

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HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

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SUBMISSIONS

Story and photos may be sent to the High Desert Warrior at least two weeks prior to the desired publication date. Items submitted to the High Desert Warrior are always subject to editing. Submissions should include subject's names, ranks and work affiliation (unit or organization) of everyone in the photograph. Group photos of four or more people don't require individual names. Submissions may be e-mailed to the editor at chicpaul.becerra@us.army.mil.

NEWSPAPER AWARDS

2nd Place, 2009 U.S. Army IMCOM-West
Newspaper Competition — Tabloid Category

Honorable Mention, 2008 Dept. of the Army
Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware
Newspaper Competition — Tabloid category

3rd Place, 2007 U.S. Army IMCOM-West
Newspaper Competition — Tabloid Category

SEND US FEEDBACK

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2. ICE (Interactive Customer Evaluation)
3. CG's Hotline: 380-5463

Academy commandant to be next SMA

BY C. TODD LOPEZ

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Army senior leadership announced today that Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond F. Chandler III will serve as the 14th sergeant major of the Army.

Chandler currently serves as the 19th commandant of the Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas. He enlisted in the Army in 1981 as a 19E armor crewman. He will replace Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston as the Army's senior enlisted advisor and spokesman of the enlisted corps.

During his nearly 30-year career, Chandler has served in tank crewman positions and has had multiple tours as a troop, squadron and regimental master gunner.

"It's huge shoes that I have to fill, following Sergeant Major of the Army Preston," Chandler said. "But I am humbled and excited about the opportunity. And we'll see what the future holds, and what Soldiers and families tell me we need to look at — and I'll work that with Army leadership to try and make those changes that best support them."

Chandler said he knows some of the challenges he'll help the Army face while serving as SMA are the same the Army is working on now: maintaining the force, reconstituting the force, and building resiliency in the force.

"We have got to maintain the combat-seasoned force that we have been so successful at sustaining over the past nine years," Chandler said. "We have an Army that is unparalleled in its lethality and its willingness and ability to conduct operations around the world. So I think that is the first thing, to maintain the combat-seasoned force."

Chandler also said he knows it's important for Soldiers to have more dwell time with their families.

"This has been a very difficult and long war the Army has been in, and we have some work to do to help it reconstitute as we build dwell time over the next couple of years," he said.

The new SMA is also impressed with efforts the Army is making at building resiliency into the force — in particular with the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program.

"Programs like CSF and the new Master Resilience Training that we are developing for



U.S. ARMY

Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond F. Chandler III will serve as the 14th sergeant major of the Army.

the Army and producing for the Army, along with the Army Family Covenant, is going to help us build a more resilient force for the long term," he said. "We are in a period of persistent conflict and this is not going to go away anytime soon — so we have got to build a more resilient force that can see us through the challenging times."

Chandler also said he's fortunate to have participated in developing at the Sergeants Major Academy some of the concepts driving noncommissioned officer development today — including the advancement of structured self development.

"One of the things I've been fortunate to partake in while here at the Sergeants Major Academy is to really understand SMA Preston's vision for the NCO Corps," Chandler said. "Structured Self Development ... (was)

built here at the Sergeants Major Academy, and I have been intimately familiar with that process and where we are trying to go. From my perspective, I will continue to sustain and move forward those initiatives that have started with SMA Preston."

While Chandler said he's familiar with some of what he'll be working on as the next sergeant major of the Army, he also said that he is not brining his own agenda to the job — and that he serves at the discretion of the chief of staff.

"I have no priorities at this point, except to provide predictability for Soldiers and their families," Chandler said. "I do not come into this position with some set agenda or group of things that I personally want to fix or look into. I serve at the whim of the CSA and he is going to tell me what he wants me to focus on, and from there I move forward."

Chandler will likely serve the bulk of his time as sergeant major of the Army alongside Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, currently the commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. Dempsey was nominated to be the next chief of staff of the Army.

Chandler and Dempsey share a working relationship today — Chandler's position as commandant of the USASMA falls under Dempsey's TRADOC. The two have also worked together as part of the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment. There, Dempsey was Chandler's regimental commander, while Chandler served as a first sergeant in the regiment.

Chandler was chosen as the next sergeant major of the Army by Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. That selection is something Chandler said he never considered during his career.

"I never thought in my wildest dreams I would ever even be in a position to be considered for the SMA," Chandler said. "So, I never dreamed about being SMA, or thought about it. For me, I was a squadron command sergeant major in combat. And that is what I aspired to do. Since that time I have had a series of other assignments that have challenged me and helped me to grow as an NCO and as a person."

When serving as sergeant major of the Army, Chandler will spend time on Capitol Hill, discussing Army needs and concerns before both the Senate and the House. He will also likely meet with the President of the United States, and will spend much time traveling alone and with the chief of staff of the Army to visit Soldiers and their families throughout the Army.

Chandler said the new role for him will not distract him from what he is at his core.

"I am a Soldier — and I happen to be a sergeant major," Chandler said. "But that doesn't change the fact that I came from the same rank and the same position that those young privates and sergeants and first sergeants are in today. And that's the tie that binds us together — those shared experiences. There is a responsibility to represent the Army at various events and engagements. But at the end of the day, my place is with the Soldiers and their families in the Army and that's where I intend to be."

Valentine's, from page 2

It is this St. Valentine whom the modern Valentine's Day celebrants honor.

Because of a ban in marriage in Rome under Caludius, whenever lovers thought of marrying, they went to Valentine who met them afterwards in a secret place, and joined them in the sacrament of matrimony. And thus, he secretly performed many marriages for young lovers. But such things cannot remain hidden for long. It was only a matter of time before the Roman leadership came to know of this and had Valentine arrested.

Before his execution, Valentine asked for a pen and paper from his jailer so he could write a note. He signed a farewell message that read "From Your Valentine," a phrase that lived ever after. Thus, February 14 became a day for all lovers and Valentine became lover's patron saint. It began to be annually observed by young Romans who offered handwritten greetings

of affection, known as Valentines, to the women they admired on this day. With the coming of Christianity, the day came to be known as St. Valentine's Day.

By the 18th century, gift-giving and exchanging hand-made cards on Valentine's Day had become common in England. Hand-made valentine cards made of lace, ribbons, and featuring cupids and hearts began to be created on this day and handed over to the man or woman one loved. This tradition eventually spread to the American colonies.

It was not until the 1840s that Valentine's Day greeting cards began to be commercially produced in the U.S. The first American Valentine's Day greeting cards were created by Esther A. Howland Mount Holyoke, a graduate and native of Worcester, Mass. Howland, known as the Mother of the Valentine, made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and

colorful pictures known as "scrap." It was when Howland began Valentine's cards in a large scale that the tradition really caught on in the United States.

Today, Valentine's Day is one of the major holidays in the U.S. and has become a booming commercial success. According to the Greeting Card Association, 25 percent of all cards sent each year are "Valentines." The "Valentines," as Valentine's Day cards are better known, are often designed with hearts to symbolize love. Valentine's Day is now celebrated all over the world. This special day is marked by colors red and pink, which have become the holiday's official colors over time. The day also features pictures of hearts, cupids with bows and arrows that target lovers, harps and more.

Editor's note: You can reach Bob Lucas at 650-6364 or email him at barstowbob2@verizon.net

For more information go to www.irwin.army.mil

Crime Watch

Information provided by
Provost Marshal Office

Identity theft. Location: Unknown. Victim stated that person(s) unknown used the victim's social security number to engage in tax fraud. IRS is investigating.

Found property. Location: Park Rhineland Drive. The informant reported to the Fort Irwin Police, a found wallet. The wallet was placed into the Police found property section.

Loud noise complaint. Location: Tiefort View housing. Complainant reported loud stomping coming from the upstairs residence. The upstairs residents were advised.

Fleeing the scene of an accident. Location: Cactus Cove housing. Victim reported that person(s) unknown sideswiped the victim's vehicle, that was parked on the street. Report was taken.

Identity theft. Location: Out of state. Victim reported that person(s) unknown used the victim's personal information to obtain an out of state driver's license.

Larceny of government property. Location: Seattle. Victim reported that person(s) stole his helmet. Report was taken.

Traffic collision. Location: Sandy Basin. Victim reported that person(s) unknown sideswiped the victim's parked vehicle. Report was taken.

Federal warrant. Location: Fort Irwin Main Gate. Gate guards reported the presence of a subject with a federal arrest warrant. Police responded and arrested the warrant subject.

Adopt-a-pet



Name: Olivia
Breed: Shar-Pei mix
Gender: Female
Age: Puppy

Olivia is available for adoption at the Fort Irwin Vet's Clinic. Call 380-3025 for more information. You can also check out the Fort Irwin section on www.petfinder.com

News Briefs

Road Closures

From Jan. 31 to Mar. 16, there will be multiple road closures throughout the Fort Irwin housing area. For a complete list of closures visit www.irwin.army.mil and look under the Hot Topics Section.

Job Announcements

On Feb. 18, the Civilian Personnel On-line (CPOL) Employment pages will migrate to Army Civilian Service and will no longer be available on www.cpol.army.mil. Bookmark URL: www.armycivilianservice.com. Apply for positions by clicking on Job Search and follow the instructions on the announcements. It will prompt you to go to either Resumix or USAjobs (USA Staffing). For questions, contact the Civilian Personnel Activity Center office at 380-3077.

Soldiers' Spouses' Program

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Chaplain's Office introduced new programs for Soldiers who have deployed and their spouses at Fort Irwin, Calif. The programs will feature open group discussions led by a chaplain. The group discussions will provide an open, safe and confidential environment for Soldiers and their spouses to discuss problems. The Warriors' Huddle, for Soldiers who have deployed, will be held Mondays at the Education Center, Room 26, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The Spouses' Warrior Huddle, for spouses of Soldiers who have deployed, will be held Tuesdays at the Family Life Center, Building 320, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For more information regarding the Warriors' Huddle or the Spouses' Warrior Huddle, please contact Sgt. Christina I. Lemburg, 11th ACR chaplain assistant, at 380-4913 or by email at christina.parmeley@us.army.mil.



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Worship Services/Chapel Activities

Recurring Worship Services Center Chapel

Fri.: 12 noon — Islamic Prayer Service (Bldg. 317)
Sun.: 9 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Rosary Before Mass) (Sanctuary)
 Life-Teen & EDGE — Catholic High School Students (after mass)
 9:30 a.m. — Protestant Sunday school
 11 a.m. — Chapel Next, Contemporary Worship Service (Sanctuary)
 11 a.m. — Protestant Traditional Service (Activity Room, Bldg. 315)
 2:15 p.m. — Latter Day Saints Religious Education (Bldg. 315)
 3:15 p.m. — Latter Day Saints — Priesthood & Relief Society (Bldg. 317)

Recurring Worship Services Blackhorse Chapel

Sun.: 9 a.m. — Protestant Liturgical Service (Bldg 211)
 11 a.m. — Gospel Service
 1 p.m. — Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Worship Service
Wed.: 7 p.m. — Bible study (Gospel)
Thu. 1st & 4th: 6 p.m. — Gospel Choir
 7 p.m. — Prayer Men of Integrity (Gospel)

Sat.: 8 a.m. — Women of excellence 2nd Saturday (Gospel)
 8 a.m. — Ministerial Leadership Training 3rd Sunday (Gospel)

Center Chapel

Recurring Weekday Programs and Services

Daily Catholic Mass — Wed. and Thu. (11:45 a.m.)
CWOC — Catholic Women of the Chapel, Thu. (9 a.m.)
PYOC — Protestant Youth, Middle School, Mon. (6-7:30 p.m.)
PYOC — Protestant Youth High School, Mon. (7-9 p.m.)
PWOC — Protestant Women of Chapel, Tue. (9 a.m.) and (6 p.m.)
AWANA — Wed. (4 p.m.)
MOPS — Mothers of Preschoolers 2nd & 4th Wed. (9 a.m.)
Spouses Huddle — Tuesdays 9-10:30 a.m. (for spouses of deployed or deployed and returned soldiers)
Earth Based Services — Tuesdays (4-8 p.m.) Bldg. 317
Jewish Services — Please call Center Chapel at 380-3562
Operation Helping Hands Food Pantry — Mon.-Thu. 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (Closed during holidays).
 For additional information, call 380-3562.

Feb. 16: Marriage 101, Pre-Marriage & Marriage Enhancement (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) Bldg. 315
Feb. 23: Catholic Baptism class at 6:30 p.m. (Bldg. 320)



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Photographed by Sean Kennedy Santos

Community Happenings

Auction Donations Wanted

The Fort Irwin Military and Civilian Spouses' Club will host its annual Mardi Gras celebration at Reggie's, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. This adults-only event features a Voo Doo Lounge, Texas hold 'em and black jack card tables, and live and silent auctions. The community can support the event by donating items for the live and silent auctions. Fun items from previous years include the "Pub in a Tub," "Everything Disney," "James Bond in a Box," and a camping basket. Proceeds will benefit the Fort Irwin community in the form of scholarships and welfare grants. Visit website mscsfirwin.org to learn more about Mardi Gras and how you can donate an item to the auction, or call Elena at (562) 233-0442. The deadline to donate auction items is Saturday/Feb. 12.

Cosmic Bowling

During February, come down to Strike Zone every Saturday night for glow-in-the-dark cosmic bowling with disco lights while listening to the latest music hits! Cosmic Bowling is only \$20 per person for unlimited bowling from 8 p.m. to midnight. For more information, call 380-4249.

5K Run/Walk

There will be a 5K Run/Walk on Saturday/Feb. 12, with run kickoff beginning at 8 a.m., at the Coyote Activity Center. Call 380-3457 for more information.

Free NASCAR Tickets

Service members and their families are invited to register immediately for free tickets to NASCAR racing at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, to be held on March 6. The first 1,000 registrants will receive their free tickets between March 2 and 4. To register, go to <http://208.73.50.218/fmi/iwp/cgi?-db=WHT%20Events&-loadframes>.

Children's Sealant Day

In celebration of National Dental Health Month, the Fort Irwin Dental Activity will offer Fort Irwin children (ages 6-15) a Sealant Day. Sealants are a preventive dental measure to help combat cavities in teeth. It is a quick and simple procedure with great benefits towards oral health. Sealant Day will be on Feb. 23, 12-5 p.m., at Dental Clinic No. 1 (located at Bldg. 478, corner of 3rd Street and G Avenue). Children will be seen by appointment only due to limited space. Call the Dental Clinic at 380-3196/3284 and ask for a sealant appointment.

MEDDAC Family Readiness

MEDDAC Soldier, Family Readiness Group (SFRG) will

KNTC Headliners

88.3FM

Mon., 7:30-9 a.m.: Sue Jones — "Monday Morning Express"

Mon., 12-1 p.m.: "Ray and Jay's Sports Hour"

Tue., 7:30-9 a.m.: Jackie Hoggins — "Community Movers and Shakers"

Tue., 12-1 p.m.: Caroline's "Alternative Rock" Hour

Wed., 7:30-9 a.m.: Gus — "Cruiz'n with Gus and Newsmakers"

Wed., 12-1 p.m.: 1st Lt. Rob Mark — "11ACR Hour"

Thu., 7:30-9 a.m.: Jason Miller — "Garrison Community Updates"

Fri., 7:30-9 a.m.: John Wagstaffe — PAO Director

Today's Music with Lexi

Mon., 11 a.m.-noon Thu., 11 a.m.-noon

Tue., 2-3 p.m. Fri., 11 a.m.-noon

Wed., 11 a.m.-noon

hold a meeting at the Sandy Basin Annex, Tuesday/Feb. 15, 5-6 p.m., Topic will focus on The Fort Irwin Tax Center and its staff will be able to answer questions on tax filing. For more information, contact Sarah Rangel at 380-7634 or sarah.rangel@us.army.mil.

Protestant Women Meeting

Protestant Women of the Chapel present Guest Speaker Andrea Plotner of PWOC International at the Center Chapel on March 8, at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Come and enjoy new friendships, lots of food and free childcare. Contact pwoc.ftirwin@gmail.com for more information.

Cub Scouts

The Cub Scouts is inviting all boys, ages 6 to 10, to join their organization. Cub scouting is a year-round family program designed for boys in 1st through 5th grades. The program emphasizes leadership, community awareness, family understanding, character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. For more information on how to join the Cub Scouts at Fort Irwin, e-mail: ftirwincubscouts@gmail.com or call Sandy Law at 386-1198.

At the Movies

Thursday, Feb. 10

7 p.m. Closed

Friday, Feb. 11

7 p.m. Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG)

7 p.m. Gulliver's Travel (PG)

9:30 p.m. How Do You Know (PG-13)

9:30 p.m. Season of the Witch (PG-13)

Saturday, Feb. 12

7 p.m. Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG)

7 p.m. Gulliver's Travel (PG)

9:30 p.m. How Do You Know (PG-13)

9:30 p.m. Season of the Witch (PG-13)

Sunday, Feb. 13

4 p.m. Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG)

7 p.m. How Do You Know (PG-13)

7 p.m. Season of the Witch (PG-13)

Monday, Feb. 14

7 p.m. Gulliver's Travel (PG)

7 p.m. Season of the Witch (PG-13)

Tuesday, Feb. 15

7 p.m. Closed

Wednesday, Feb. 16

7 p.m. Closed

This schedule is subject to change at the last minute to accommodate changes in movies and free showings. ID cards are required from all personnel not in uniform when purchasing movie tickets. For more information and movie updates, call 380-3490.

Sport Coaches Needed

The Child Youth and School Services are short of coaches for upcoming sports. Coaches have free sports enrollment for their children. If interested, stop by Bldg. 1300, located at Meuse Argonne Street, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Adult Chess Club

Whether you are a beginner or novice, all adults are welcome to participate in Adult Chess Club every Tuesday evening, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Fort Irwin Post Library. For more information, call 380-3462.

Storytime

Unlock the magic of storytime Thursday mornings at 11:30 a.m. and Friday mornings at 10 a.m. Storytime can help kids develop both listening and language skills. For more information, call the Post Library at 380-3462.

Teen Workshops Offered

The HIRED! Program will be offering the following workshops for all high school teens registered with CYSS at the Middle School Teen & Center (1313):

Feb. 23, 2-3:30 p.m. — Mock Interviews

Mar. 9, 2-3 p.m. — Career Exploration (parents must sign

an internet permission slip ahead of time, available at MST)

Mar. 23, 2-3 p.m. — College Information (parents must sign an internet permission slip ahead of time, available at MST)

For more information, contact Meagan Wegner, Work Force Preparation specialist, Child, Youth, and School Services, at 380-8412.

GSAB FRG Events

Following are upcoming General Support Aviation Battalion, Family Readiness Group events:

AAD, GSAB

Air Ambulance Detachment (AAD) FRG meeting has not been scheduled. If you should have any questions, contact Juli Cummings at (254) 630-2596 or email: aadfrg@gmail.com.

If you are interested or should have any questions, contact Mrs. Robinson at 380-7781 or email: avcofrg@gmail.com.

Seeking Caseworkers

Volunteer today to become an American Red Cross caseworker and become the vital link receiving and delivering emergency communication messages for Fort Irwin Soldiers, family members and visiting units. The primary mission of the Fort Irwin American Red Cross Station is to provide emergency communication services to military personnel and their families. We are the trusted source relaying emergency messages such as death notices or the birth of a child to service members anywhere in the world. Caseworkers receive free training and childcare reimbursement. You will provide a valuable volunteer service to the Fort Irwin community while developing on-the-job training that could lead to future employment. If you are interested in becoming a Red Cross caseworker, contact Fort Irwin Red Cross Station at 380-3697.

New Parent Support

New Parent Support is a program designed to assist you every step of the way with raising your children in a nurturing, safe, and healthy environment. Childcare is provided for all New Parent Support classes offered. Infant care classes offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays by appointment only. Classes are held in the Army Community Service conference room. Point-of-contacts are Susan Alderman Family Advocacy Program manager, 380-4470 or the front desk at ACS, 380-4784.

School Events

Silver Valley Unified School District

Feb. 18, 21: No School

Lewis Elementary School

Feb. 11-17: Jump Rope for Heart

Tiefert View Intermediate

Jan. 21-Feb. 11: Math-a-thon

Silver Valley High School

Feb. 16-18: CIF Playoffs-Basketball and Soccer

Youth and School Activities

Middle School Activities

Thursday: Cooking Club, Photo Club

Friday: Homemade V-Day Cards

Monday: V-Day Dance

Tuesday: African Rhythm Dancers, Newsletter Club

Wednesday: Smart Girls, Ultimate Journey, 4H

Teen Activities

Friday: Human Shuffle

Saturday: African Bracelets

Hours of Operation:

Middle School: M-F 3:15 until 6 p.m.

Teen Center:

Friday: 6-11 p.m.

Saturday: 3:30-11 p.m.

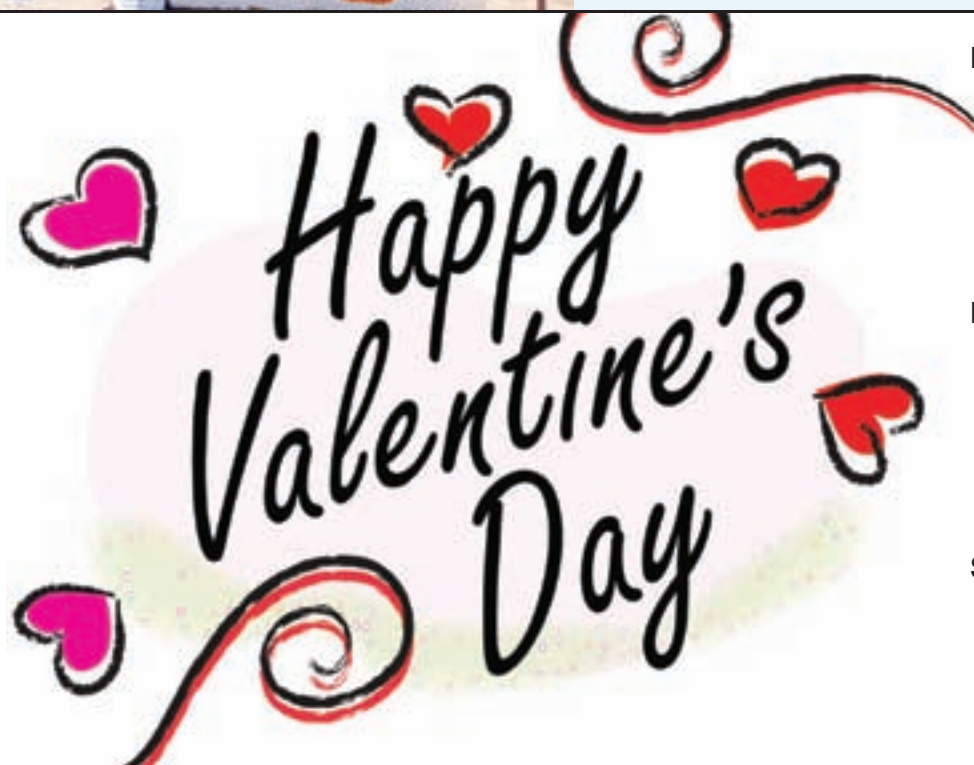
Sundays and Holidays: Closed

More information: Kristin Morgan at 380-3732.

Send Community Happenings briefs at least two weeks in advance of event to the editor, chicpaul.becerra@us.army.mil



Fort Irwin Community Calendar



Fri., Feb. 11

CSM Harvey Retirement
Luncheon
11:30 a.m.
Reggie's
380-6872

Fri., Feb. 11

NCO,s Battle Staff Class
Graduation
9 a.m.
Post Theater
380-3880

Sat., Feb. 12

5K Run/Walk
8 a.m.
Coyote Activity Center
380-3457

Mon., Feb. 14

Warriors' Huddle
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Education Center
Room 26
380-4913

Tue., Feb. 15

Spouses' Warrior Huddle
9:30-10:30 a.m.
Family Life Center
Bldg. 320
380-4913

Tue., Feb. 15

Pre-Transition Briefing
12:30 a.m.
Bldg. 552
DHR
380-3096/3224

Mon., Feb. 21

Missoula Children's
Theater Auditions
3:30 p.m.
Ingall's Recreation
380-7751

Sat., Feb. 26

OCSC Mardi Grass
6 p.m.
Reggie's
562-233-0442

Tue., Mar. 8

PWOC International
Tuesday
9 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Center Chapel
Bldg. 315
380-3562

Check out these upcoming activities at Fort Irwin

YB-49



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Community bids farewell to Connie Abrams

BY JACKIE HOGGINS

Community Relations Officer

Mrs. Connie Abrams, wife of Brig. Gen. Robert Abrams, outgoing commanding general, National Training Center, was honored by the Fort Irwin Community on 3 February 3 at Reggie's ballroom. The farewell was hosted by the Military Civilian Spouses Club (MCSC).

"It was a fun filled 'Wildcat' spirited event fitting the number one, wildcat fan, Mrs. Connie," said Amy Peterson, MCSC parliamentarian/webmaster.

The "Blue and White Wildcat" celebration complete with MCSC cheerleaders, Texas sized "mum", laughter, and gifts feted Mrs. Abrams, an avid University of Kentucky fan and highlighted her special days here at Fort Irwin. MCSC presented Mrs. Abrams with gifts marked with special meaning including coupons for her new home in the Savannah, GA area, a lovely antique vase, and a framed photo collage of Fort Irwin sites.

Little did Mrs. Abrams suspect that her suspiciously missing blue Kentucky game wig would be worn by one of the illustrious MCSC cheerleaders.

Highlight of the entertainment included spelling out the word "CONNIE." Cheerleader, Col. Sherrie Bosley's "N" probably

summarized Connie best, "N for never-ending support to the Fort Irwin community, the Catholic parish here on post, the Military and Civilian Spouses' Club, the FICA Thrift Store, Silver Valley High School, and the American



Connie Abrams, sporting her farewell mum, enjoys the fun as her MCSC cheerleaders spell out her accomplishments at Fort Irwin.

Red Cross. Connie was to the Fort Irwin community, what Maidenform and Jockey are to Dolly Parton ... very supportive!"

"It's hard to believe that 583 days could go so fast," said Michelle Garnica, MCSC president. "We, as Army spouses, know that we are always moving to the next post,

but this time, it's much harder to say, 'See you later.' Connie has not only given us her heart, but takes a piece of our hearts with her."

The "E" said it best for 'Everyone.' E is for everyone who loves you very much Connie, and will miss you terribly!



MCSC Cheerleaders, lead by Michelle Garnica, MCSC president, recount Connie's legacy at Fort Irwin.

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Five superfoods

keep your heart healthy

BY SHARI LOPATIN

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

You know diet plays an important role in living a heart-healthy life, but do you know *which* foods can keep your heart pumping stronger, longer?

February is American Heart Month, so we're offering you the top five superfoods for the heart from The American Dietetic Association (ADA) and the "Nutrition Action Health Letter." They'll not only make you feel good, but will protect against heart disease, the top killer of adults in the U.S.

1. **Beans.** Each tiny bean, according to the ADA, has a powerful combination of protein, fiber, vitamins and minerals. Researchers have found that diets including beans may reduce the risk of heart disease and certain cancers.
2. **Salmon.** The omega-3 fats in salmon can help reduce the risk of sudden-death heart attacks. Not into fish?

Some other options to get omega-3 fats include walnuts, fresh ground flax seed and canola oil.

3. **Mushrooms.** Stocked full of antioxidants that help protect cells from free radicals, which can lead to cancer and sometimes heart disease, mushrooms are a great source of potassium, copper and certain B-vitamins.



4. **Garlic and onions.** Research shows these two foods may help lower LDL (bad) cholesterol, control blood pressure, prevent life-threatening blood clotting, act as antioxidants to reduce cancer risk, and even promote immunity. For the greatest benefit, use the actual vegetable and stay away from onion and garlic powders. You may

need to eat one garlic clove daily to make a difference.

5. **Blueberries.** These fun little berries are bursting with antioxidants. In addition to fighting off heart disease and cancer, blueberries can also fight aging. They're loaded with dietary fiber and vitamins A and C.
6. **Surprise superfood: dark chocolate!**

Eating heart-healthy can be a special treat, too. The ADA reports that recent research shows components of the cocoa bean and dark chocolate could positively impact the cardiovascular system, kidney function, brain health, immune system, diabetes and blood pressure. In fact, dark chocolate may help limit the build-up of plaque in arteries by lowering LDL (bad) cholesterol, raising levels of HDL (good) cholesterol and reducing blood pressure. To reap the health benefits of dark chocolate, make sure the chocolate has at least 70 percent cacao — otherwise, it's just candy.

For more heart-healthy living tips, visit TriWest's Heart Health website at www.triwest.com/hearthealth.

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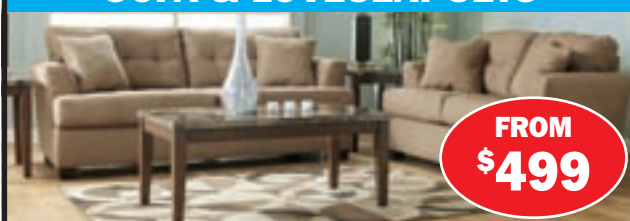
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Ferrell, from page 1

Brig. Gen. Ferrell is no stranger to preparing formations for combat either, he said.

"He has an established reputation Army-wide as an outstanding Soldier, a superb leader, and a courageous warrior," Gen. Thurman said. "It is now his task to help ensure that our units are trained and ready to not only meet the threats of today, but also those of the future."

As Gen. Thurman welcomed Brig. Gen. Ferrell to his new command, he praised Brig. Gen. Abrams for his numerous accomplishments during his 23 months as the commanding general of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin.

"Brig. Gen. Abrams has done a great deal to make sure Fort Irwin remains a world-class installation," he said. "He is very serious about

providing the very best and ensuring the well-being of the Soldiers, civilians, and families who live and work here every day."

Under Brig. Gen. Abrams' watch, Fort Irwin has continued to modernize and improve, he said.

"Gen. Abrams has not only been responsible for the care and maintenance of the Soldiers and civilians of Fort Irwin, but he also shouldered the responsibility of enabling other unit commanders to prepare and ready their own formations for operations around the globe," he said. "The National Training and the installation have evolved very rapidly to fulfill the training needs of the force and to ensure the operational Army remains the best in the world."

"Abe is a remarkable leader and an extraordinary Soldier. To say that Abe has commanded the training center during a unique period would be the height of an understatement," Gen. Thurman said. "Gen. Abrams continues to demonstrate that he is a leader for tomorrow's Army, an Army which is changing as fast as the NTC battlefield."

As Brig. Gen. Abrams reflected on his time at the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, he said there are hundreds of memories he and his family will take with them as they leave an installation he described as "small-town America."

"Most of all, we will remember the incredible people we met here, who we've had the honor to serve alongside. Soldiers, family members, DA civilians and contractors, they

more than anything, are the most important ingredient to the National Training Center," he said. "Our people here are NTC's special sauce. Their professionalism, their dedication, their sacrifices, especially the sacrifices of their families, that is what the Abrams will remember the most."

As he took command, Brig. Gen. Ferrell thanked everyone for attending the change of command ceremony.

"A lot changed here since I was an OC (observer-controller) in '92-'94, but it's all good change," he said. "The one thing that has been enduring that has not changed has been the focus on training our Soldiers for combat. That's what we do, that's what we're here for, and we will continue to do that."



CAROLINE KEYSER

Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, outgoing commander of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, stands at attention before the NTC/Fort Irwin color guard and unit colors during change of command ceremony at the main post helipad.

For more information go to www.irwin.army.mil



CAROLINE KEYSER

Brig. Gen. Terry Ferrell passes in review after assuming command of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin during change of command.



CAROLINE KEYSER

National Training Center and Fort Irwin outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, salutes and stands in front of the NTC and Fort Irwin color guard during change of command ceremony.



CAROLINE KEYSER

Robert Abrams, son of Connie and Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, outgoing commander of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, accepts the symbolic last round during change of command ceremony at the main post helipad.



CHARLES MELTON

NTC/Fort Irwin Soldiers fire cannons for honors during the post's change of command ceremony at the main post helipad. Honors were deferred to the 281 Fort Irwin Soldiers currently deployed overseas.



CHARLES MELTON

From left to right, outgoing National Training Center and Fort Irwin commanding general Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, U.S. Army Forces Command commander Gen. James D. Thurman, and incoming National Training Center and Fort Irwin commanding general Brig. Gen. Terry Ferrell inspect the troops during the installation's change of command.

Proper etiquette applies to world of social media

BY CHARLES MELTON

Warrior Staff Writer

While the First Amendment guarantees the right to free speech, it doesn't provide a "get out of jail" free card for irresponsible expressions of that freedom.

This is especially true in the brave new world of Social Media for Soldiers and family members as information can travel to millions of people around the globe in a matter of seconds.

The Army recently provided guidelines for personal conduct on Social Media platforms, which specifically addresses appropriate behavior for both Soldiers and family members.

Soldiers are Soldiers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and they are expected to maintain their military bearing both on and offline, in uniform and off duty. Any misconduct is subject to disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

For example, if an underage Soldier posts a picture on his Facebook of him at a party with a beer in his hand, he is subject to disciplinary action by his chain of command as are any other Soldiers pictured with him.

Any offensive comments posted on any Social Media platform whether it be mySpace, Facebook or Twitter are subject to the same scrutiny and disciplinary action, so the best rule of thumb is "When in doubt, don't let it out." Being under the influence is not an acceptable excuse for inappropriate conduct on Social Media platforms either.

Operations Security or OPSEC is a major concern when it comes to Social Media as the Army prohibits the posting or disclosure of internal army documents or information the Army has not officially released to the public. Examples of this are information about casualties, detainees or military operations.

OPSEC also includes avoiding mentions of rank, unit locations, deployment dates, names, equipment specifications and capabilities

OPSEC is just as important for family members as it is Soldiers, so Soldiers need to ensure their families and friends understand what can and cannot be posted.

When it comes to expressing personal opinions, the Army strongly encourages Soldiers to make it clear they are speaking for themselves and not on behalf of the Army by using a disclaimer

such as: "The postings on this site are my own and don't represent the Army's positions or opinions." Those opinions should be limited to Soldiers professional expertise, personal experiences or personal knowledge.

When using Social Media platforms there are steps you can take to protect your privacy and mitigate the risk to both yourself and the Army:

- Check your privacy settings on all Social Media sites and set them to allow visibility to friends only.
- Do not friend someone you do not know personally.
- Use caution when engaging in online conversations with strangers.
- Never release personal financial information.
- Use caution when tagging people in photos. Not everyone wants to be identified.
- Review the photos you're tagged in.
- Use your instincts. If something doesn't seem right, it likely isn't.

For more information on the proper use of Social Media visit <http://www.slideshare.net/USArmySocialMedia>.



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Army Family Action Plan delegates tackle 88 issues during Super Bowl week

BY TIM HIPPS
FMWRC Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — The perception of a week long meeting of Army wives is one of the greatest misnomers about the annual Army Family Action Plan Conference, which opened its 2011 rendition Monday at the Sheraton National Hotel.

The AFAP delegates actually consist of active duty Soldiers, National Guard, Reserve — including officers, enlisted, junior and senior non-commissioned officers — Family members of said personnel, civilian employees and their Family members, as well as retirees — both military and civilian.

“That’s the misnomer with AFAP — people think it’s only a bunch of spouses,” explained Christina Vine, the ACSIM program analyst who manages the Army Family Action Plan Conference issues for Headquarters, Department of the Army. “We have full-bird colonels, we have Pfc.s, we have BOSS Soldiers, dual military Family members, we have survivors — both spouses and parents of the fallen.

“Technically, you could be a delegate if you’re a GS civilian.”

Vine then rattled off a roll call of issues that easily could affect folks however loosely they are connected to the military. She wishes more people understood the mission of the Army Family Action Plan and all the good derived from the year-round process that culminates annually in Northern Virginia.

“I have an entire slide that says AFAP affects everybody,” Vine said. “People ask me all the time why I do this job, and I tell them I’m passionate about this job for many reasons — because in this book, every single one of these issues affects me.

“If I look in employment, I’m a DA civilian,” she said while thumping her thumb on the AFAP Conference Workbook, dubbed the voice of the Army Family. “When I look in Family support, I’m an active-duty Soldier’s wife, so the issues about Family Readiness Groups, they affect me. The issues about Child and Youth Services, I have two small children that use the CDC, those issues affect me. When I look in medical, I use Tricare, it affects me. When I look at Soldier support, my husband is an active duty Soldier.”

Vine and her five-year-old twin boys also dealt with Dad’s deployment last year.

“When you talk about the Soldier issues, they all affect my husband,” she added. “Maybe by the grace of God, tomorrow he could be a wounded warrior. I never know. People don’t realize that the majority of our issues are issues that are Soldier specific.”

Yet, they touch nearly everyone affiliated with the military — one way or another. Although the Army is the only branch that has such a program, more than 60 percent of all active AFAP issues impact all services.

“This is Super Bowl Week because these are going to become reality,” Vine said. “These are the issues that need Department of the Army resolution. Can you tell that I’m passionate about the program?”

The conferences consists of 95 delegates from around the world, 51 subject-matter experts from the Army staff, 32 workgroup team members and at least 15 conference staffers. Another dozen members of the Army Teen Panel are here to mirror AFAP by dealing with issues of 14 to 19-year-olds from six Army regions, including Reserve, Guard and Accessions Command representatives.

“What I always like to say about AFAP is it’s the most democratic process in the Army

because you can have a Pfc.’s spouse submit an issue that ends up having to be worked by a three-star general,” Vine said with a smile.

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commanding general of Installation Management Command and Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, helped launch the weeklong conference.

“The Army leadership is committed to fulfilling the Army Family Covenant,” Lynch said during opening remarks. “Both the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army have routinely said we’re not going to fail to fulfill the Army Family Covenant, so I don’t want you to think reduced resources is going to affect Families because it’s not.”

AFAP begins at the installation and local level, where almost 90 percent of AFAP issues are resolved, according to Maj. Gen. Reuben Jones, commander of the Army’s Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command. Handling issues at the local level results in ongoing community improvements. Issues beyond the local level are raised to command-level conferences and then to Army headquarters, where delegates from across the Army determine which will be selected for resolution by Army staff and Department of Defense agencies.

See Family, page 15

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Holiday reception greeting



NTCTASC

Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, past commanding general, National Training Center and Fort Irwin, second from left, meets and greets Brig. Gen. Herman S. Clardy III, Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base commander, Miss Barstow 2010 Angelica Rodriguez and Teen Miss Barstow 2010 Charli Burnett during Commanding General's Holiday Reception, Jan. 30.

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Enhanced Combat Helmet to be fielded in fall

BY C. TODD LOPEZ

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army is looking at an improved combat helmet that surpasses the capabilities of what Soldiers are currently wearing in the field, and it may be available in the fall.

The new Enhanced Combat Helmet doesn't look much different than the Advanced Combat Helmet it's designed to replace, but the performance difference is huge, said Col. William Cole, project manager, Soldier Protection and Individual Equipment.

"If you hold them in your hand, you'd have a tough time telling the difference, other than the relative thickness," Cole said during a media roundtable Feb. 2, in the Pentagon. "The ECH is a little bit thicker, also about an ounce to four ounces lighter depending on the size. But it's really a huge leap ahead forward in terms of head protection capability."

During testing, he said, the helmets did so well that a new test system will need to be developed to evaluate their effectiveness at protecting a Soldier's head from fragments.

"The data we're getting from the prototypes going into the milestone was even better than we hoped," he said. "We had hoped for a 35-percent improvement over the ACH in terms of ballistic protection and it's way better than that."

With smaller fragments, the lab was unable to determine a "V50" rating — that's a determination of what velocity is needed for 50 percent of fragments to penetrate a test material.

"In this case the test guns they had couldn't shoot fragments fast enough to penetrate the helmet," Cole said. "We don't know exactly what the V50 is, but we know it's better than anything we've seen before. We're going to have to build stronger test guns to figure out exactly how good it is."

The Army wants 200,000 of the helmets, though Cole said, "I'd be surprised if we stop at that number."

It's expected fielding of the ECH will happen this fall and will align with the Army's Force Generation Model, though Cole said he hopes to accelerate fielding. The Marine Corps is a partner in development of the ECH and will also purchase the helmets.

"It potentially could mitigate some traumatic brain injuries. We're seeing it has great potential," said Brig. Gen. Peter N. Fuller, the Program Executive Officer Soldier. "We're trying to work through getting that product accelerated."



U.S. ARMY

The Advanced Combat Helmet, currently used in Iraq and Afghanistan, is scheduled to be replaced this fall with one that offers even more protection, the Enhanced Combat Helmet.

Nett Warrior looking at plate-shaped batteries

BY C. TODD LOPEZ

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — New technology, including SAPI-plate-shaped batteries, came out of the recent limited user test for the Nett Warrior system.

During a media roundtable Feb. 2, in the Pentagon, Col. Will Riggins, program manager for Soldier Warrior, discussed feedback from the recent Nett Warrior limited user test and the concurrent Land Warrior assessment in theater.

"I think probably the best feedback, the best data point was for both of those assessments — was it's just a game-changing capability — knowing where you are, where your teammates are," Riggins said.

Nett Warrior is a system worn on a Soldier's body that will provide "unparalleled situational

awareness" to Soldiers on the ground. The system includes a radio, a helmet-mounted display and a hand-held data input device. The wiring for the system is integrated into a protective vest. With Nett Warrior, Soldiers will be able to see their location, the location of their fellow Soldiers, and the location of known enemies on a moving map.

"What this system will mean is they are never lost, never out of reach of their buddies," said Riggins. "They are able to adapt to dynamics of changing combat, and able to share all that information about all aspects of their mission in order to cut through that fog of war."

With Nett Warrior, there are issues of power consumption, system size and system weight. One solution, Riggins said, is the use of form-fitting batteries. Batteries molded in the shape of protective plates might allow systems like Nett Warrior to be powered, but with less bulk on the Soldier.

"The battery we have now looks like a brick and fits on your body as well as a brick," Riggins said. Using side small-arms protective-insert plates as a model, they asked industry to build a battery that was similarly shaped.

While Riggins said the battery might not go into the same location as the SAPI plate — the pocket inside the vest — but it will more closely conform to the shape of the body, and will fit easier on a Soldier.

The conformal batteries were demonstrated during an "excursion day" at the end of the Nett Warrior LUT, which ended in November. Riggins said during the excursion day, industry was challenged to bring their best ideas to the table.

"What we want to see is what are the game-changing technologies ... that we can bring into this area of operating in any environment and being situationally aware," he said.

Coming out of that excursion day were the conformal plates, and power-generation capabilities that included solar blankets and power cells, and a generator Riggins described as a "scavenger."

"(It's) a generator that runs off multiple different types of fuel," Riggins said, "if you happen to run across JP8 or diesel or even gasoline. With some small adjustments — it's got an adjustable carburetor on it — you can generate power based on whatever you can get off the battlefield. So those are the great types of capabilities that we've got."

Riggins said feedback on some of the equipment was so strong, one unit did an operational needs statement to get some of the equipment to take with them to Afghanistan. That unit took conformal batteries, solar blankets, and smaller power cells — in the 30-to-50-watt range — that act as a squad-rechargeable-type capability that runs off methane.

Family, from page 13

"The issues that make their way to Department of the Army Headquarters all begin at a garrison or tenant unit, such as 5th Group or an MI brigade that belongs to Intelligence and Security Command, or maybe an engineering company that belongs to the Corps of Engineers," Vine explained. "They all create these issues."

The issues are vetted at the local level and those issues that can not be resolved at that garrison are forwarded to their mid-level commands — such as FORSCOM, TRADOC, Corps of Engineers, USAEUR and Eighth Army, to name a few.

Those 17 entities have their own conferences, where the issues are prioritized again. In addition to the mid-level commands, two special-interest groups have their own symposiums: the Army Wounded Warrior Program and the Survivor Outreach Services.

"At those conferences, their issues all deal with things affecting them," Vine said. "All 17 send their issues that cannot be resolved at their level up to Headquarters DA and they come to

me. We had 103 issues submitted. We tasked them out to the Army staff — such as Army G1, Army Civilian Personnel and the Surgeon General's Office — and they tell me which issues they are a proponent for."

According to Jones, AFAP alerts local Army leaders to areas of concern so they can resolve issues at home.

"In some cases we had great news stories, and it turned out there already was a fix in place that the commands just weren't aware of — so that's how we went down from 103 to 88," Vine said. "We didn't even need AFAB because there was a resolution. That's great because some people had a fix in place already."

The remaining 88 issues will be considered this week by eight work groups, which are divided into subject areas: Education & Awareness, Employment, Family Support I & II, Medical Issues I & II, and Soldier Support I & II.

"It's one week here at Headquarters DA, but it's always going on," Vine added. "It's a year-round process. If you go right now

to www.armyonesource.com, you can submit an issue that can go to that garrison 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Vine has been working the AFAP Conference for seven years but says she never really knows which issues will make the final cut. She does, however, have a couple of favorites this year.

One will be handled by the Soldier Support II work group: tax-free active duty Soldier retention bonuses.

"Right now, if you re-enlist in the Army and you are not deployed, you have to pay taxes on those, and some of those re-enlistment bonuses are like 10 grand," Vine explained. "If you are deployed, then that's all tax-free, so think about the tax savings that you're getting on that. So there are some Soldiers who know that they're due to re-enlist who are happy to deploy because that means they are going to get that chunk of change. So that's one that I think will be an interesting conversation."

For more information go to www.irwin.army.mil

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Legal Notice

Important information about the \$3.4 billion Indian Trust Settlement

**For current or former IIM account holders,
Owners of land held in trust or restricted status, or their heirs**

There is a proposed Settlement in *Cobell v. Salazar*, a class action lawsuit about individual Indian land held in trust by the federal government. This notice is just a summary. For details, call the toll-free number or visit the website listed below.

The lawsuit claims that the federal government violated its duties by (a) mismanaging trust funds/assets, (b) improperly accounting for those funds, and (c) mismanaging trust land/assets. The trust funds include money collected from farming and grazing leases, timber sales, mining, and oil and gas production from land owned by American Indians/Alaska Natives.

If you are included in the Settlement, your rights will be affected. To object to the Settlement, to comment on it, or to exclude yourself, you should get a detailed notice at www.IndianTrust.com or by calling 1-800-961-6109.

Can I get money?

There are two groups or "Classes" in the Settlement eligible for payment. Each Class includes individual IIM account holders or owners of land held in trust or restricted status who were alive on September 30, 2009.

Historical Accounting Class Members

- Had an open individual Indian Money account ("IIM") anytime between October 25, 1994 and September 30, 2009, **and**
- The account had at least one cash transaction.
- Includes estates of account holders who died as of September 30, 2009, if the IIM account was still open on that date.

Trust Administration Class Members

- Had an IIM account recorded in currently available data in federal government systems any time from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, **or**
- Owned trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- Includes estates of landowners who died as of September 30, 2009 where the trust interests were in probate as of that date. This means you have asked a court to transfer ownership of the deceased landowner's property.

An individual may be included in one or both Classes.

What does the Settlement provide?

- A \$1.5 billion fund to pay those included in the Classes.
- A \$1.9 billion fund to buy small interests in trust or restricted land owned by many people.
- Up to \$60 million to fund scholarships to improve access to higher education for Indian youth.
- A government commitment to reform the Indian trust management and accounting system.

How much can I get?

- Historical Accounting Class Members will each get \$1,000.
- Trust Administration Class Members will get **at least** \$500.
- If you own a small parcel of land with many other people, the federal government may ask you to sell it. You will be offered fair market value. If you sell your land it will be returned to tribal control.

If you believe you are a member of either Class and are not receiving IIM account statements, you will need to call the toll-free number or visit the website to register.

What are my other rights?

- If you wish to keep your right to sue the federal government about the claims in this Settlement, you must exclude yourself by **April 20, 2011**.
- If you stay in the Settlement you can object to or comment on it by **April 20, 2011**. The detailed notice explains how to exclude yourself or object/comment.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia will hold a hearing on June 20, 2011, to consider whether to approve the Settlement. It will also consider a request for attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses in the amount of \$99.9 million. However, Class Counsel has fee agreements that would pay them 14.75% of the funds created for the Classes, which could result in an award of \$223 million. The Court may award more or less than these amounts based on controlling law. If approved, these payments and related costs will come out of the Settlement funds available for payment to Class Members.

If you wish, you or your own lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own cost. For more information, call or go to the website shown below or write to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 43017-4877.

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